

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour
and 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3853—Drug-Free Workplace Act
H.R. 4101—FY 1999 Agriculture Appropriations Act



H.R. 3853—Drug-Free Workplace Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 3853 under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. It is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: H.R. 3853 expresses the sense of Congress that businesses should adopt drug-free workplace programs, and that states should consider financial incentives—such as reductions in workers' compensation premiums—to encourage businesses to adopt drug-free workplace programs. To achieve this end, the bill authorizes \$10 million in FY 1999 to (1) educate small businesses about the advantages of a drug-free workplace; (2) provide financial incentives and technical assistance to enable small businesses to create a drug-free workplace; and (3) assist working parents in keeping their children drug-free. The bill was introduced by Mr. Portman *et al.* on May 13, 1998, and was reported by the Small Business Committee by voice vote on June 11, 1998.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #17, June 19, 1998.



H.R. 4101—FY 1999 Agriculture Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 4101 after it completes consideration of H.R. 3853. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed. Yesterday, the Rules Committee adopted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule self-executes (i.e., incorporates into the base text upon adoption of the rule) a committee amendment printed in the Rules Committee report (see summary below). The rule waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations. It accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: The bill appropriates \$56 billion in new FY 1999 budget authority for agriculture programs—\$6.1 billion more than FY 1998 and \$2 billion less than the president's request. When scorekeeping adjustments are taken into account, the bill provides \$42.3 billion for mandatory programs (almost 80 percent of the total) and \$13.6 billion for discretionary programs. H.R. 4101 also provides roughly \$1 billion for the FDA and related agencies, \$39.4 million more than FY 1998 and \$5.6 million less than the president's request.

Specifically, H.R. 4101 provides (1) \$14.4 billion for agricultural programs in FY 1999, \$7.4 billion more than last year; (2) \$784 million for conservation programs (\$2.1 million less than last year) (3) \$2.2 billion for rural economic and community development programs (an \$86.6 million increase); (4) \$36 billion for domestic food programs (\$1.1 billion less than last year); (5) \$1.4 billion for foreign assistance programs (a \$181 million decrease); and (6) \$1 billion for the FDA and related agencies, \$39.4 million more than last year.

Much of the mandatory spending goes toward (1) food stamps (\$22.6 billion), (2) the Food and Drug Administration (\$965.7 million), (3) child nutrition programs (\$9.2 billion), (4) the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (\$1.5 billion), and (5) the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC, \$4 billion).

In addition, the bill increases funding for the Food Safety Inspection Service \$20.6 million, bringing FY 1999 funding to \$609.3 million. The measure also provides \$1.5 billion for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, as well as \$8.4 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation Fund.

The rule self-executes a committee amendment that makes five major changes to the bill. Specifically, the amendment (1) reduces the funding available for renovating USDA buildings from \$23.5 million to \$5 million; (2) reduces funding for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration by \$2.5 million (to \$27.5 million); (3) deletes a provision which allowed the president to exempt commodity credit programs from Arms Export Control Act restrictions to allow India and Pakistan to purchase food exports; (4) creates \$25 million in savings by limiting the Conservation Farm Option Program; (5) limits waivers of the statute of limitations for individuals to allege discrimination against the USDA to complaints involved between January 1, 1983, and December 31, 1996. This provision also limits claims only to commodity programs, agricultural credit insurance

fund programs for farm operating loans, farm ownership loans, emergency loans, and disaster assistance programs.

A CBO estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was submitted by Mr. Skeen and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on June 16, 1998.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 4101. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 4101:

Mr. Bereuter may offer an amendment (#1) to modify the 1949 Housing Act to prohibit the HUD secretary from denying a loan guarantee for multifamily rental housing in rural areas if the interest on the loan is exempt from inclusion in gross income as defined by the 1986 IRS code. **Contact:** x5-4806

Mr. Bass may offer an amendment (#2) to reduce funding for the Wildlife Services program by \$10 million, limiting the program to no more than \$18.8 million. **Contact:** x5-5206

Mr. Dooley may offer an amendment (#3) to transfer \$49.3 million from the bill to carry out the provisions of the 1998 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Act, which streamlines or eliminates certain existing agricultural programs and establishes new research initiatives. **Contact:** x5-3341

Mr. Foley may offer an amendment (#4) to prohibit the Food and Drug Administration from implementing or enforcing any rule that disallows the manufacture, distribution, or sale of metered-dose inhalers that use chlorofluorocarbons. **Contact:** x5-5792

Mr. Hall may offer an amendment (#5) to increase funding for the emergency assistance program by \$10 million, bringing the total appropriation for the program to \$141 million. The amendment also makes \$34 million in offsetting cuts from programs such as agricultural research and extension work.

Mr. Miller (FL) and Mr. Schumer may offer an amendment to prohibit funds in the bill from being used to offer a government loan to a sugar processor except at a rate of 17 cents per pound for cane sugar and 21.9 cents per pound for sugar beet. Proponents of the amendment argue that recipients of these loans at the rate at which they are currently offered receive them below market rates—making taxpayers bear all the risk—yet still forcing sugar prices on consumers at almost twice the cost of the world market. Opponents of the amendment counter that reducing the subsidy will increase financial uncertainty for sugar farmers and thus continue to erode their “safety net.” In addition, opponents charge, it will devastate an efficient sugar industry by driving producers out of business and wreak havoc on consumers and industrial users who rely on timely shipments of sugar. **Staff Contact:** Todd Irons (Miller), x5-5015; Angela Manso (Schumer), 5-6616

Mr. Neumann may offer an amendment (#6) to establish a maximum market price for peanut sales of \$550 per ton. The 1996 Farm Bill established a maximum market price for peanuts of \$610 per ton. Supporters contend that peanut prices are artificially inflated—despite the 1996 reform—and

that even with a reduction, the market price of \$550 per ton is still \$200 per ton higher than the world market price. Consequently, consumers must pay more for peanut products; workers lose jobs at processing and manufacturing plants; and American farmers lose market share to other countries. On the contrary, opponents counter that changes made by the 1996 Farm Bill reduced quota support level by 10 percent and argue that the 1996-enacted provisions should be given more time to work. *Staff Contact: Scott Heins, x5-3031*

Mr. Obey may offer an amendment (#7) to eliminate the bill's extension of current milk marketing rules, which continue the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, an agreement between six New England states to set the price of milk above market level and the price guaranteed by the federal government. The bill currently extends current milk marketing rules from April 1999 to October 1999. *Contact: x5-3365*

Mr. Petri may offer an amendment (#8) to remove the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact from the bill's extension of current milk marketing rules so that the compact sunsets when it was originally intended to, on April 4, 1999. Proponents of the amendment charge that the compact enables farmers in the northeast to set milk prices even higher than what the federal government guarantees—at the expense of consumers. *Staff Contact: Katie Birschbach, x5-2476*

Mr. Petri may offer an amendment (#9) to prohibit any appropriations in the bill from being used in cooperation with or payment to anyone associated with the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact after April 4, 1999. *Staff Contact: Katie Birschbach, x5-2476*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#10) to increase funding for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program from \$8 million to the president's requested level of \$10 million. The amendment will be offset by reducing the Livestock Protection Program of the Wildlife Services Predator Control program. The SARE program provides grants to small- and medium-size farmers, ranchers, and researchers exploring more sustainable agricultural methods. *Staff Contact: Eric Olson, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#11) to increase funding for the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by \$10 million, with an offsetting cut from Food and Drug Administration salaries. *Staff Contact: Eric Edwards, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#12) to establish a \$5 million competitive grant program for elementary, junior, and senior high schools to work with local farmers to purchase locally grown foods. The amendment will be offset by a \$5 million reduction in the Foreign Assistance and Related programs. *Staff Contact: Mary Richards, x5-4115*

Mr. Sanders and Mr. LoBiondo may offer an amendment (#13) to increase senior nutrition programs by \$10 million for FY 1999, restoring the program to its FY 1996 level of \$150 million. The program provides funding for congregate and home-delivered meals and for surplus food to low-income senior citizens to prevent malnutrition. Offsetting spending cuts will be taken from FDA salaries and expenses. *Danielle LeClair (Sanders), x5-4115; Aimee Steel (LoBiondo), x5-6572*

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment (#14) to increase by \$10 million the appropriation for the Rural Community Advancement Program to fund a national pilot program to promote agri-tourism. *Staff Contact: Eric Edwards, x5-4115*

Ms. Smith (WA) may offer an amendment (#15) to prohibit appropriations in the bill from being used to pay the salaries of Agriculture Department employees who make available to tobacco producers any crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or crop disaster assistance under the auspices of the 1996 Farm Bill. **Contact: x5-3536**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #17, June 19, 1998.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER ENTIRELY NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

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Amendment
Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

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